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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/527,391

10/21/2005

Heike Gielen-Haertwig

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01/29/2009

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EXAMINER

RAO, DEEPAK R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1624

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/29/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/527,391	Applicant(s) GIELEN-HAERTWIG ET AL.	
	Examiner Deepak Rao	Art Unit 1624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 17 and 19-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 17 and 19-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to the amendment filed on November 24, 2008.

Claims 1-15, 17 and 19-24 are pending in this application.

Withdrawn Rejections/Objections:

Applicant is notified that any outstanding rejection/objection that is not expressly maintained in this office action has been withdrawn or rendered moot in view of applicant's amendments and/or remarks.

The following rejections are maintained:

1. Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a method of treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or acute myocardial infarction, does not reasonably provide enablement for a method of treating acute and chronic inflammatory, ischaemic or remodeling processes generally. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. The reasons from the previous office action are incorporated here by reference.

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they were not deemed to be persuasive. Applicant argues that 'the claims are enabled because the specification contains a teaching of the manner and process of making and using an invention in terms which correspond in scope to those used in describing and defining the subject matter sought to be patented'. As indicated in the previous office action, the specification recites that the instant compounds have

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human neutrophil elastase (HNE) inhibitory activity and are therefore useful in the treatment of diseases associated with HNE activity, which include acute and chronic inflammatory processes, ischemic or remodeling processes, etc. The specification provides a test to determine the HNE inhibitory activity of the compounds, however, does not establish how that activity correlates with the efficacy of the compounds in the treatment of all types of diseases encompassed by the instant methods.

Applicant further argues that ‘previous research in the field have demonstrated that HNE inhibitors are useful in treating inflammatory diseases’ and relies upon Stockley reference which was cited in the specification. The cited reference has been fully considered. Stockley reference indicates that “there is considerable evidence to implicate the neutrophil in the pathogenesis of COPD” and “the neutrophil (at least theoretically) is likely to play a major role in the pathogenesis of chronic bronchitis and emphysema” (see page S49). The reference referring to the neutrophil elastase inhibitors concludes that: “The interactions are clearly complex and further studies will be necessary to dissect the beneficial effects from the detrimental effects, in order to determine the net effect of neutrophils on the bronchial tree in health and disease” (see page S51). As can be seen, the state of the art reference clearly establishes the speculative nature of the pharmaceutical therapeutic activity related to HNE inhibitors. The state of the art does not identify a single class of compounds that can treat all types of diseases in a patient or possess the biological activity of the instant claims.

Further, one skilled in the art of medicinal therapy recognizes that there are complex interactions between individual genetic, developmental state, sex, dietary, environmental, drug, and lifestyle factors that contribute to the carcinogenic process, making it even more challenging

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to have a single therapeutic agent for the treatment of diverse diseases. Rigorously planned and executed clinical trials, incorporating measurement of appropriate biomarkers and pharmacodynamic endpoints are critical for selecting the optimal dose and schedule. A detailed understanding of the molecular mode of action of the specific kinase, alongside the elucidation of the molecular pathology of individual diseases is required to identify disease types and individual patients that may benefit most from treatment. It is also important to construct a pharmacologic audit trail linking molecular biomarkers and pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic parameters to receptor response endpoints. Therefore, it is maintained that applicants have not provided sufficient test assays or data to support the claimed therapeutic method commensurate in scope, as of the filing date of the application.

2. Claims 1-15, 17, 19-21 and newly added claims 22-24 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over pending claims of copending Application No. 10/590,786 or 10/590,770. The reasons provided in the previous office action are incorporated here by reference.

Applicant's request to hold the rejection in abeyance until allowable claims are found in the application is acknowledged.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Deepak Rao whose telephone number is (571) 272-0672. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James O. Wilson, can be reached at (571) 272-0661. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**/Deepak Rao/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1624**

January 29, 2009